

Against the Grain

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People Profile: Heather Stecklein

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Mutual Advocacy ... from page 38

The fifteen **Rush** employees present represented a wide range of departments and surprised **Nathalie** when they used their own introduction opportunities to ask her questions about the **Rush** Archives. One woman thanked her for assistance the Archives provided her with a genealogy request several months before. She recalled the emotional response her relative gave her when she presented him with reprinted material from the **Rush** Archives' collection. Another attendee asked if a collection in his own department would be suitable for donation to the Archives. In this group setting, all of the participants heard the conversation between the Archivist and other employees. Consequently, everyone present learned about the variety of ways they could make use of our research skills and collection initiatives.

These fruitful encounters with other employees are not possible if we don't venture out of our office. Each campus event provides opportunities to interact with different segments of the institutional community. In many cases, it is the first time some of our fellow participants have heard about the Archives. We rarely leave one of these events without a fresh reference request, an offer of materials to transfer to the Archives, or a request for information about our outreach events and tours.

Creating our Own Contributions to Existing Events

Finally, the **Rush** Archives has created its own contributions to existing campus events. In several instances, we have made note of new ways that our department can enhance existing annual events. Each year, **Rush University Medical Center** encourages its employees to participate in the **American Heart Association's** Heart Walk. The major city-wide event takes place in Chicago's Grant Park, but many employees do not have schedules that allow them to travel to that location. Instead, the institution's Heart Walk committee created an on-campus alternative walking route. When the **Rush** Archives recognized that this event was taking place on campus each year, we proposed that the **Rush** Archives could incorporate a historic walking tour of campus into the route. In response, event organizers modified the route to represent a walking tour that incorporated many of the older buildings on campus. Now, on-campus walkers learn about the history of **Rush** as they raise money for charity each year.

Rumors from page 34

ites **Rod Gauvin** is Senior Vice President and General Manager of **ProQuest Information Solutions**, responsible for all library markets. **Tim Wahlberg**, Senior Vice President and General Manager of **ProQuest Corporate Market Solutions** leads the corporate market business, including **ProQuest Dialog**. **Michael Gersch** continues in his role as Senior Vice

President and General Manager of **Serials Solutions** while now also overseeing **ProQuest's** affiliated business, **Bowker**. **Rich LaFauci**, Senior Vice President and General Manager of **ProQuest Research Solutions**, leads the consumer business as well as product brands **RefWorks** and the recently launched **Pivot** for research development professionals. The awesome **Kevin Sayar**, is President and General Manager of **ebRARY**, and the resourceful **Boe Horton**, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of **ProQuest East Asia**, continues his

focus on developing products and services for customers in that region. Whew! Hard keeping up with all the innovations at **ProQuest!** <http://www.proquest.com/en-US/aboutus/press-room/11/20111109.shtml>

Listen up!!! The 2009 Charleston Conference Proceedings are FINALLY OUT!!!! 2009 Charleston Conference Proceedings, Electronic Copy (PDF, 27.9 MB) in Dropbox: <http://db.tt/yBvmrZb7>. Print copies are available for purchase at the following retailers

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against the grain people profile

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BORN AND LIVED: I was born and raised in Iowa. The most exotic place I have lived is Juneau, Alaska, and I have lived in Chicago, Illinois for eight years.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I have been a Librarian/Archivist at the **Rush University Medical Center** Archives in Chicago for six years. Before I came to **Rush**, I was an Archival Assistant at the American College of Surgeons, The Iowa Women's Archives, the Center for Dubuque History, and the Illinois Regional Archives Depository.

I serve on the Steering Committee of the Chicago Area Archivists, and I'm a member of the Chicago Area Medical Archivists.

FAMILY: I'm celebrating my fifteenth anniversary with my husband, **Geoff Osterhaus**, this year. Our daughter, **Amelia**, turned two in December 2011.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I love to get outside whenever I can. I enjoy hiking, geocaching, and exploring new cities. I love photographing everyday life, and I always have a camera with me.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I love non-fiction and biographies. I recommend *The Alex Studies*, by **Irene Pepperberg**, which details her investigative work with the speaking capability of an African gray parrot. I also recently read **Alison Arngrim's** *Confessions of a Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated*, which was a fascinating memoir.

PET PEEVES: Defeatism and avoidable miscommunications.

PHILOSOPHY: There is always a way to move forward.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: The industry has to continue to build a digital presence. Our users will increasingly develop the expectation that they do not need to travel to obtain the information they seek. 🐼



Conclusion

As **Rush's** archivists, we are responsible for accessioning and processing collections, working with external researchers, assisting **Rush** departments with projects, and archiving born-digital documents. We interpret our collections by organizing our own outreach initiatives, including exhibits, presentations, and tours. However, as a small staff, it is important for us to prioritize building our image on campus. We encourage our fellow archivists and

librarians to attend other departments' events and contribute content to existing blogs and newsletters. Participate in your institution's initiatives — even when a connection to the archives or library is not immediately clear. Sometimes to see and be seen is a goal in itself. Your status as a familiar face on campus can go a long way toward achieving your department's future goals. Every time you introduce yourself to another participant at an event, you can create a potential user or donor. 🐼